

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated or recombinant polynucleotide comprising a nucleic acid segment or its complement, wherein said nucleic acid segment is at least 100 nucleotides in length and has at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:1 ~~hybridizes to at least 750 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1 at 5 °C to 25 °C below T<sub>m</sub> in aqueous solution at 1 M NaCl.~~
2. (Currently Amended) An isolated or recombinant polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence or its complement, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises at least 750 contiguous ~~nucleotide residues~~ nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. (Previously Presented) The isolated or recombinant polynucleotide of claim 2 comprising the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or its complement.
4. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence or its complement, wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide comprising at least 190 contiguous amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2.
5. (Previously Presented) The isolated or recombinant polynucleotide of claim 4, comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
- 6-9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim ~~4~~ 5.
11. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 10, further comprising a promoter that is operably linked to the polynucleotide.

12-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising a polynucleotide of claim 4.

22. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 21, further comprising a promoter that is operably linked to the polynucleotide.

23. (New) The isolated or recombinant polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid segment is at least 500 nucleotides in length.

24. (New) The isolated or recombinant polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid segment is at least 1000 nucleotides in length.

25. (New) The isolated or recombinant polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid segment is at least 2000 nucleotides in length.

26. (New) The isolated or recombinant polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises at least 500 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (New) The isolated or recombinant polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises at least 1000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (New) The isolated or recombinant polynucleotide of claim 2, wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises at least 2000 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. (New) A polynucleotide primer or probe comprising a nucleotide sequence, wherein said nucleotide sequence has between 12 and 100 contiguous nucleotides identical or exactly complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

30. (New) The polynucleotide primer or probe of claim 29, wherein said nucleotide sequence has between 12 and 50 contiguous nucleotides identical or exactly complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.

31. (New) The polynucleotide primer or probe of claim 29, wherein said nucleotide sequence has between 15 and 25 contiguous nucleotides identical or exactly complementary to SEQ ID NO:1.